



## 2015 National History Day Theme “Leadership and Legacy in History”

It is time to start thinking about National History Day in Kentucky (NHDKy) 2015. By competing in NHDKy you are becoming a better student. The skills you will develop by reading, researching, writing, analyzing and presenting a topic that you choose will translate to all of your academic subjects.

This year’s theme for the elementary (4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade), junior (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade), and senior (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) divisions is “Leadership and Legacy in History.” As always National History Day has selected a theme that is broad enough to explore almost any topic, whether it is local, state, national or world history. Of course, Kentucky connections to this year’s theme are virtually limitless.

To understand the historical importance of your topic, you must **ask questions** about time and place, cause and effect, change over time, and impact and significance. You should ask questions about why events happened and what impact the events had. Regardless of the topic selected, you must do more than describe what happened. **You must draw conclusions, basing your opinion on evidence**, about how the topic affected individuals, communities, nations and the world. Studies should include an investigation into available primary and secondary sources, analysis of the evidence, and a clear explanation of the relationship of the topic to the theme.

Potential Kentucky connections to “**Leadership and Legacy in History**” include but are certainly not limited to:

- [Cassius Marcellus Clay, Kentucky Emancipationist](#)
- [Laura Clay and Women’s Rights Movement](#)
- [Madeline McDowell Breckinridge, Progressive Reformer and Suffragist](#)
- [John Marshall Harlan as the Great Dissenter](#)
- [John G. Fee, Kentucky Abolitionist](#)
- [Lyman Johnson and the desegregation of UK](#)
- [Mary Breckinridge and the Frontier Nursing Service](#)
- [Henry Clay and Compromises](#)
- [Muhammad Ali’s Refusal to Enter the Military during Vietnam](#)
- [Georgia Davis Powers, the first African-American elected to the Kentucky Senate](#)
- [The Second Great Awakening and Barton Stone](#)
- [Cora Wilson Stewart and the Moonlight Schools](#)
- [John Sherman Cooper and the Cooper-Church Amendment](#)

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- [Josephine Henry and the Married Woman's Property Act](#)
- [Louis D. Brandeis, Supreme Court Justice](#)
- [Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget and Catholicism in Kentucky](#)
- [Thomas Merton, religious leader and monk](#)
- [Thomas Bramlette, Civil War governor](#)
- [Anna Mac Clarke and desegregation of military bases](#)
- [Pee Wee Reese, baseball player](#)
- [Happy Chandler, governor of Kentucky and Major League Baseball commissioner](#)
- [Ephraim McDowell and Jane Todd Crawford](#)
- [Hunter S. Thompson and Gonzo journalism](#)
- [Helen Thomas and the White House Press Corps](#)
- [John Hunt Morgan](#)
- [John Thomas Scopes and the Scopes Trial](#)
- [Adolph Rupp and UK Basketball](#)
- [George Rogers Clark](#)
- [Jefferson Davis and the Confederacy](#)
- [Anne Braden and the Civil Rights Movement](#)
- [Sophonisba Breckinridge and social work as an academic discipline](#)
- [Alice Allison Dunnigan and journalism](#)
- [Mae Street Kidd and the "Reconstruction Amendments"](#)
- [Katherine Pettit and the settlement school movement](#)